

Subparts V–W [Reserved]**Subpart X—Interpretations of Statutory and Regulatory Provisions**

SOURCE: 63 FR 70313, Dec. 21, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 400.765 Basis and applicability.

(a) The regulations contained in this subpart prescribe the rules and criteria for obtaining a final agency determination of the interpretation of any provision of the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder.

(b) This subpart is applicable to all regulations that were in effect for the 1995 and subsequent crop years.

(c) All final agency determinations issued by FCIC, and published in accordance with § 400.768(f), will be binding on all participants in the Federal crop insurance program.

§ 400.766 Definitions.

Act. The Federal Crop Insurance Act, 7 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*

FCIC. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, a wholly owned government corporation within the United States Department of Agriculture.

Participant. Any applicant for crop insurance, a producer with a valid crop insurance policy, or a private insurance company with a reinsurance agreement with FCIC or their agents, loss adjusters, employees or contractors.

Regulations. All provisions contained in 7 CFR chapter IV.

§ 400.767 Requester obligations.

(a) All requests for a final agency determination under this subpart must:

(1) Be submitted, in writing by certified mail to the Associate Administrator, Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop Code 0801, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801, facsimile at (202) 690-5879 or by electronic mail at RMA533@wdc.fsa.usda.gov;

(2) State that it is being submitted under section 506(s) of the Act;

(3) Identify and quote the specific provision in the Act or regulations for

which a final agency determination is requested;

(4) State the crop year for which the interpretation is sought;

(5) State the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person affiliated with the request; and

(6) Contain the requester's detailed interpretation of the regulation.

(b) The requestor must advise FCIC if the request for a final agency determination will be used in a lawsuit or the settlement of a claim.

(c) Each request for final agency determination under this subpart must contain no more than one request for an agency interpretation.

§ 400.768 FCIC obligations.

(a) FCIC will not interpret any specific factual situation or case, such as actions of any participant under the terms of a policy or any reinsurance agreement.

(b) If, in the sole judgement of FCIC, the request is unclear, ambiguous, or incomplete, FCIC will not provide an interpretation, but will notify the requester that the request is unclear, ambiguous or incomplete, within 30 days of such request.

(c) FCIC will provide a final determination of the interpretation to a request that meets all the conditions stated herein to the requester in writing, and at FCIC's discretion in the format in which it was received, within 90 days of the date of receipt by FCIC.

(d) If a requestor is notified that a request is unclear, ambiguous or incomplete under section 400.768(b), the time to respond will be tolled from the date FCIC notifies the requestor until the date that FCIC receives a clear, complete, and unambiguous request.

(e) If a response is not provided within 90 days, the requestor may assume the interpretation provided is correct for the applicable crop year.

(f) All agency final determinations will be published by FCIC as specially numbered documents on the RMA Internet website.

(g) All final agency determinations are considered matters of general applicability that are not appealable to the National Appeals Division. Before obtaining judicial review of any final agency determination, the person must